

From: Alan Gardner
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 10:04am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I am a founding partner in a technology company that specializes in internet based software solutions. We have been in business for 18 months and have enjoyed the struggles of a fledging new business competing in the open market. I would like to share with you my thoughts of the anti-trust suit against Microsoft from the perspective of one who has faced the challenges of competing in the open market and the affect Microsoft has had on us as a company.

In the last 18 months of business I am aware of two separate occasions when we have discussed the marketing plan of our two products in which we have entertained the idea of establishing a partnership with Microsoft. On both occasions, we felt that due to Microsoft's history of 'borrowing' ideas of other companies and then offering the same product to the public at a substantially lower price, that we could not compete against our own product at the price Microsoft would offer. We have decided to look elsewhere to fulfill our marketing needs.

I believe the free market of the United States of America is integral to the economy. I believe that the ability for any American to start a computer company and compete in an open and fair market is vital to that economy. For as new comers to the industry compete, they will be forced to be innovative to survive - and that innovation will advance technology and improve the lives of more Americans.

I sincerely believe that my ability to advance my company's products and serve the needs of my present and future customers will be at risk of Microsoft is allowed to expand it's monopoly in the technology industry. I believe accepting the settlement as agreed to by the DOJ and Microsoft will do exactly that.

I urge you to seek a more fair solution - one that protects the free market and protects companies who are willing to play by the rules.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely
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VP Design

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